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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DPW-01 DHA-02 A-01 CPR-01 FBO-02 EB-07 /081 W
---------- 003753 /10
R 150340Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7186
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 33712

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, FR, VS
SUBJ: FRENCH EVACUATION FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON

1. FRENCH FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON ARE CONTINUING ON A WEEKLY BASIS. DEC 2 FLIGHT CARRIED 108 FRENCH, 56 VIETNAMESE, AND 1 INDIAN. DEC 9 FLIGHT INCLUDED 111 FRENCH, 6 CAMBODIANS, AND 42 VIET-NAMESE.

2. ACCORDING TO FRENCH CONGEN OFFICER FROM SAIGON WHO TRAVELLED ON LATTER FLIGHT, MAJORITY OF DEC 9 PASSENGERS CONSISTED OF OLD FRENCH PLANTERS AND THEIR PREDOMINANTLY MONTGNARD FAMILIES. ONE OF THE PLANTERS HAD THREE WIVES. SOURCE PREDICTED VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF ADAPTATION IN FRANCE NOT ONLY FOR THE MONTAGNARDS BUT FOR THE FRENCHMEN, AS WELL, ALL OF WHOM HAD SPENT MUCH OF THEIR LIVES IN THE HIGHLANDS. ALTHOUGH SRV DID NOT FORMALLY EXPEL THEM, THEY SURMISED THEY WERE BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AFTER SOLDIERS LOCKED THEM IN A BUILDING IN THE BAN ME THOUT AREA FOR THREE DAYS RECENTLY FOR NO APPARENT REASON.

3. ACCORDING WITH OTHER INFORMATION WE AND OTHER POSTS HAVE HEARD, SOURCE SAID IT LOOKS DEFINITELY THAT FRENCH CONGEN WILL REMAIN OPEN IN SAIGON, ALTHOUGH PAIERIE DE FRANCE (DISBURSING OFFICE) MAY CLOSE IN THE COMING MONTHS. POLICE NOW STAND OUTSIDE
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CONGEN AND WRITE DOWN NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OF ALL

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VIETNAMESE ENTERING IT, A FAIRLY INTIMIDATING PROCEDURE. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT STOP MANY PERSONS FROM SEEKING APPOINTMENTS IN ORDER TO ARRANGE TO LEAVE, SHOWING THEIR DEGREE OF DESPERATION.

4. ASKED ABOUT VIETNAMESE PRESS REPORT THAT DELEGATIONS ARE NOW VISITING OUR CHANCERY IN SAIGON IN ITS ROLE AS HISTORICAL MONUMENT, SOURCE SAID HE HAS NOT SEEN ANY SIGN OF SUCH VISITORS. (AS SAIGON OLD-TIMERS WILL RECALL, FRENCH CONGEN IS NEXT DOOR.) HE DID REMARK, HOWEVER, THAT ADDITIONAL REPAINTING AND REPAIR WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN ON THE CHANCERY ONE MONTH AGO, AND "IT IS SAID" THAT THE FRENCH PETROLEUM-EXPLORATION FIRM COMPAGNIE GENERKE DE GEOPHYSIQUES WILL BE ASKED TO TRANSFER ITS OFFICES FROM THE MAJESTIC HOTEL TO THE CHANCERY.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, EXPULSION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, EMERGENCY EVACUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO33712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-0423
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761238/aaaabgyi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH EVACUATION FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, AEMR, FR, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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